



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ART. XVII.—*Account of an expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains, performed in the years 1819 and 1820, by order of the honorable J. C. Calhoun, Secretary of War, under the command of Major Stephen H. Long ; from the notes of Major Long, Mr T. Say, and other gentlemen of the exploring party. Compiled by Edwin James, botanist and geologist for the expedition. In two volumes, with an atlas. Philadelphia, Cary and Lea, 1823.*

THE appearance of this work has been for some time anxiously expected ; nor do we fear that the public expectation will be disappointed. An increasing interest pervades the community with regard to the vast region traversed by this enterprising party. They were in many respects much better qualified and fitted out for their expedition, than the company of their distinguished predecessors, Lewis and Clarke ; and the work before us, the record of their observations and discoveries, must be allowed not only to possess the interest inseparable from such a narrative, but to make highly important additions to our knowledge of the geography and natural history of the valley of the Mississippi and the Missouri. Of that important portion of the work before us, which relates to geology, mineralogy, botany, and zoology, we shall seek an opportunity of speaking separately on another occasion. We propose, at present, to lay before our readers an historical account of this expedition, some general sketches of the country traversed, and of the tribes of native inhabitants visited by the party under Major Long. We cannot but feel that we are hardly doing justice to a work of this character, by the meagre abstract we shall be obliged to make ; and we shall esteem ourselves happy, if our readers, dissatisfied with the imperfect reflection of this expedition from our pages, shall feel a desire to inform themselves more thoroughly from the work itself.

This expedition started from Pittsburgh, in the spring of 1819. It was projected by the Secretary at War, for the purpose of exploring the Mississippi, Missouri, and their navigable tributaries, as far as the Rocky Mountains. The chief command of the expedition was given to Major Long. Dr Baldwin was attached to it as a botanist, Mr Say as a zoologist, Mr Jessup as a geologist, Mr Peale as an assistant naturalist, and Mr Seymour as a draftsman. The gentlemen

named, with other officers and members of the party, appear to have cooperated with each other, toward promoting the common object, with singular harmony and zeal. The labors of Dr Baldwin, however, were unhappily brought to a close by consumption in the progress of the expedition; and the extracts from his botanical journal are sufficient proof of the loss, which the party suffered by this misfortune.

The expedition was embarked on board the *Western Engineer*, a steam boat, destined to be the first, which should proceed a considerable distance up the Missouri, and which accomplished the trip to the Council Bluff, the station of the military post of the United States in that quarter.

On the third of May, the expedition departed from Pittsburgh, and arrived the next day at Wheeling, where the great national road from Cumberland meets the road from Zanesville, Columbus, and Cincinnati. One hundred and forty miles of this road from Cumberland to Wheeling cost the United States one million eight hundred thousand dollars, being an average of less than thirteen thousand dollars a mile. The Newburyport turnpike, built in a part of the country where we should have supposed work could be done as economically as in any portion of it, cost at the rate of at least thirteen thousand dollars a mile. In this estimation, however, is included the compensation made to the owners of the lands traversed by the turnpike, which we presume to have been much greater between Boston and Newburyport, than between Cumberland and Wheeling. The bridges and other works of masonry on the western portions of this great national road, are built of a compact argillaceous sandstone, of a light grey or yellowish white color, less durable than the stone used in the middle and eastern parts of the road, which is the blue metalliferous limestone, one of the most beautiful and imperishable materials for building, which our country affords.

On the eighth, the party passed, at the mouth of the Kenhawa, the little village of Mount Pleasant, situated on the spot, where in 1774 a battle was fought between the Indians on one side, and the Virginian troops on the other, in which Logan, the Mingo chief, avenged himself for the murder of his family. The eloquent speech, which he afterwards delivered, has owed perhaps as much to its reporter, as lord Chatham's did to the pen of Johnson.—Having arrived at Cincinnati, on the

ninth, the party was detained there till the eighteenth, by the declining health of Dr Baldwin. On the night of the eighteenth they passed in the river the boats containing the sixth regiment of the United States army, destined, like themselves, to the Missouri, and they arrived on the morning of the nineteenth at Louisville. Having passed the rapids in safety at Louisville, they proceeded down the river at the rate of ten miles an hour, with a pressure of steam equal to one hundred pounds on the square inch. A little below the rapids is an island thus described :

‘ A small island in the Ohio, about twenty-three miles below the rapids, is called Flint island, from the great numbers of fragments of flints, broken arrow points, and various instruments of stone, heretofore used by the Indians, which are found there on turning up the soil. This island has probably been the favorite residence of some tribe, particularly expert in the manufacture of those rude implements, with which the wants of the aboriginal Americans were supplied. The stone employed in these manufactures appears to have been, in most instances, that compact flint, which occurs in nodular masses, in the secondary limestones. In one instance, we met with a triangular prism, of a very hard and compact aggregate of feldspar and hornblende, unlike any rock we have seen in the valley of the Mississippi. This prism was about five inches long, with faces of about an inch in width, and was perforated, from end to end, forming a complete tube, with an orifice about half an inch in diameter, and smoothly polished, both within and without. We were never able to discover to what use this implement could have been applied ; nor do we recollect to have met with accounts of any thing analogous to it, except, perhaps, those “ tubes of a very hard stone,” mentioned by the Jesuit Venegas, as used by the natives of California, in their treatment of the sick. That it may have passed, by means of the intercourse of various tribes of Indians, from the primitive mountains of California to the rapids of the Ohio, is not perhaps improbable. Indirect methods of communication may have conveyed the productions of one part of the continent to another, very remote from it. The savages of the Missouri receive an intoxicating bean from their neighbours on the south and west ; these, again, must probably procure it from other tribes inhabiting, or occasionally visiting, the tropical regions.’ pp. 30, 31.

On the twenty-ninth of May our travellers passed the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, the two largest tributaries to the Ohio, and on the thirtieth arrived at a point

above the mouth of the Cash river, where a town has been laid out, called *America*. It is on the north bank of the Ohio, about eleven miles above the Mississippi, and for reasons, which our authors have given in detail, it seems likely that this spot, or some one near it, will become the *depôt* of a very extensive trade. They even go so far as to say, that 'in view of the great extent of inland navigation centering at this place, and the incalculable amount of products to be realized at no distant period, from the cultivation of the rich valleys and fertile plains of the West, a great proportion of which must find a market here, no doubt can be entertained, that *it will eventually become a place of as great wealth and importance, as almost any in the United States.*'

On the thirtieth, our travellers reached the mouth of the Ohio, having descended that beautiful river, from its head at Pittsburgh to its junction with the Mississippi, a distance of thirteen hundred and thirty-three miles, through a country surpassed in fertility by no part of the United States. Their course was henceforward to be more slowly made against the powerful current of the Mississippi and the Missouri. They passed several steam-boats ascending with stores for the troops of the United States; and affording the spectacle of the last and most powerful improvements in machinery thus pushed forward into the wilderness, scarcely as yet embraced within the compass of our geography. On the third of June, they passed the insular rock in the middle of the Mississippi, called the Grand Tower. It is about one hundred and fifty feet high, and two hundred and fifty in diameter. Between this rock and the right bank of the river, is a channel of about one hundred and fifty yards wide, with a deep and rapid current. Our authors are of opinion that a bridge might here be constructed, for which this rock might serve as a pier.

Having given a character of the fertility of the soil in the 'great American bottom,' above the mouth of the Kaskaskia river on the eastern side of the Mississippi, and having also observed, that the lands on the opposite bank, though less fertile than the American bottom, are yet highly valuable, and have long been objects of *scandalous speculation*, our authors subjoin the following anecdote, in justification of this remark:

'Among a variety of stratagems practised in this part of the country to obtain titles to lands, was one which will be best explained in our
New Series, No. 14.

plained by the following anecdote, related to us by a respectable citizen of St Genevieve. Preparatory to taking possession of Louisiana in 1805, the legislature passed a law, authorizing a claim to one section of land, in favor of any person, who should have actually made *improvements* in any part of the same, previous to the year 1804. Commissioners were appointed to settle all claims of this description, more commonly known by the name of Improvement Rights. A person, somewhere in the county of Cape Girardeau, being desirous of establishing a claim of this kind to a tract of land, adopted the following method :—The time having expired for the establishment of a right, agreeably to the spirit of the law, he took with him two witnesses to the favorite spot, on which he wished to establish his claim, and in their presence marked two trees, standing on opposite sides of a spring, one with the figures 1803, the other 1804, and placed a stalk of growing corn in the spring. He then brought the witnesses before the commissioners, who, upon their declaration that they had seen corn growing at the place specified, in the *spring* between 1803 and 1804, admitted the claim of the applicant, and gave him a title to the land.' vol. i. p. 51.

On the ninth, the party arrived at St Louis, and some very interesting notices are given of prints of human feet in the limestone in the neighborhood, and of the Indian tumuli, which exist there in considerable numbers. Our limits do not permit us to enlarge our quotations in this part of the abstract we are attempting of their voyage. One very important fact, however, deserves to be recorded. By occasion of the account of the excavations made in one of these tumuli, our authors mention, that Dr Drake, the highly respected naturalist of Cincinnati, had exhibited to them, in his cabinet, two large marine shells, that had been dug out of ancient Indian tumuli in Ohio, one of which appears to be a *cassis cornutus*. All the authorities, except Linnæus, regard the *cassis cornutus* as an Asiatic shell ; and Bruguiere, say our authors, has maintained that Linnæus was mistaken, in referring it to America. The circumstance, that a shell of Asiatic origin has been found in an Indian tumulus in Ohio, would seem to establish an intercourse at least between the Indians of North America and those of Asia. Our authors justly adduce this discovery as a confirmation of the theory of the Asiatic origin of our native tribes ; a theory, which, since the researches of M. de Humboldt, has been very extensively adopted.

Having alluded to the probability of a connexion between our native population and that of the Asiatic isles, we beg leave to digress a moment, with respect to the latter. The newly establisseed 'Society of Geography' at Paris, which, under the most favorable auspices, and combining the efforts of some of the most respectable naturalists, travellers, men of science, and philosophers in France, has been instituted for the promotion of the study of geography, has assigned as a prize question, for which the dissertations are to be delivered to the society in February 1824, the following subject, viz. 'to investigate the origin of the different nations scattered among the islands of the Pacific ocean to the southeast of the continent of Asia, examining the points of resemblance or dissimilarity between them severally and other nations, in respect to configuration, physical constitution, manners, customs, civil and religious institutions, traditions, and monuments; with a comparison of the elements of their languages, in relation to the analogy of words, and grammatical forms; and taking into consideration the means of communication, as affected by geographical position, prevailing winds, currents, and the state of navigation.' We could wish that the credit of producing the successful essay on this subject might belong to an American. The subject is evidently identified with American antiquities; as no one now doubts that these islands are a link in the chain of humanity, which connects the natives of America with those of Asia. All the printed documents on the subject are as accessible on this side of the water as on the other. Monuments and specimens of the arts of the South Sea islanders abound more in this country, than in any other, and we presume we might challenge all the cabinets in Europe to produce as many of them, as are to be found in the single museum at Salem. The school at Cornwall in Connecticut furnishes the means, we believe, of more exact investigation of some of the dialects of those islands, than it can be in the power of any European scholar to institute; and we cannot but wish that the possession of these facilities might awaken the industry and enterprise of our geographers. The prize to be awarded to the successful essay is twelve hundred francs.

But we return to Major Long's expedition. On the twenty-first of June they passed, in this truly magnificent navigation from river to river, into the Missouri; and after various ad-

ventures, which, with the observations of our authors upon them, we are forced to omit, arrived on the thirteenth of July at the town of Franklin.

‘This town, at present increasing more rapidly than any other on the Missouri, had been commenced but two years and an half before the time of our journey. It then contained about one hundred and twenty log houses of one story, several framed dwellings of two stories, and two of brick, thirteen shops for the sale of merchandise, four taverns, two smiths’ shops, two large team mills, two billiard rooms, a court house, a log prison of two stories, a post office, and a printing press issuing a weekly paper. At this time bricks were sold at ten dollars per thousand, corn at twenty-five cents per bushel, wheat one dollar, bacon at twelve and an half cents per pound; uncleared lands from two to ten or fifteen dollars per acre. The price of labour was seventy-five cents per day.

‘In 1816, thirty families only of whites were settled on the left side of the Missouri, above Cote Sans Dessein. In three years, their numbers had increased to more than eight hundred families.’—vol. i. pp. 88, 89.

Here the expedition met with a loss in the death of Dr Baldwin. The decease of an enterprising naturalist, while engaged in the pursuit of his studies, demands, if any thing, the feeble tribute it may be in the power of a literary journal to pay to his memory. Without any other acquaintance with his character than we derive from the work before us, the following notice of this gentleman is so handsome, and apparently so just, that we feel a pleasure in quoting it.

‘Dr Baldwin’s health had so much declined that, on our arrival at Franklin, he was induced to relinquish the intention of ascending farther with the party. He was removed on shore to the house of Dr Lowry, intending to remain there until he should recover so much strength as might enable him to return to his family. But the hopes of his friends, even for his partial recovery, were not to be realized. He lingered a few weeks after our departure, and expired on the thirty-first of August. His diary, in which the latest date is the eighth of August, only a few days previous to his death, shows with what earnestness, even in the last stages of weakness and disease, his mind was devoted to the pursuit, in which he had so nobly spent the most important part of his life. He has left behind him a name which will long be honored;—his early death will be regretted not only by those who knew his value as a friend, but by all the lovers of that fas-

cinating science, to which his life was dedicated, and which his labours have so much contributed to advance and embellish. We regret that it is not in our power to add to this inadequate testimony of respect, such notices of the life and writings of Dr Baldwin, as might be satisfactory to our readers. His manuscripts were numerous, but his works were left unfinished. The remarks on the *Rothollia*, published in Silliman's Journal, are his only productions, as far as we are informed, hitherto before the public * His Herbarium, it is well known, has contributed to enrich the works of Pursh and Nuttall. He was the friend and correspondent of the venerable Muhlenburgh, and contributed materials for the copious catalogue of North American plants, published by that excellent botanist. In South America he met with Bonpland, the illustrious companion of Humboldt, and a friendly correspondence was established between them, which continued until his death. He had travelled extensively, not only in South America, but in Georgia, Florida, and other parts of North America. His notes and collections are extensive and valuable. During the short period of his connexion with the exploring party, the infirmities, resulting from a long established and incurable pulmonary disease, then rapidly approaching its fatal termination, could not overcome the activity of his mind, or divert his attention entirely from his favorite pursuit. Though unable to walk on shore, he caused plants to be collected and brought on board the boat; and not disheartened by the many vexations attending this method of examination, he persevered, and in the course of the voyage from Pittsburg to Franklin, detected and described many new plants, and added many valuable observations relating to such as were before known.'—vol. i. pp. 93, 94.

On the nineteenth of July, a temporary division was made in the party. Messrs Say, Jessup, Seymour, and Dougherty, (an interpreter in the service of Major O'Fallon, Indian agent at the Council Bluffs, who had joined the party below,) accompanied by Major Biddle, left Franklin, intending to traverse the country by land to Fort Osage, and there to await the ar-

* In a letter addressed to Mr Frazer, an extract from which was published in the tenth volume of the London Journal of Literature and the Arts, Dr Baldwin mentions having discovered, near Monte Video, in South America, the *Solanum Tuberosum* in its native locality. Mr Lambert, however, considered this plant as the *Solanum Commersoni* of Dunal, and though it produces tuberos roots, and in other respects makes a near approach to *S. tuberosum*, he was not satisfied of their identity, and remarks that it is yet to be proved, that this is the stock from which the common potatoe has been derived. It appears, however, that the original locality of the *solanum tuberosum* has been ascertained by Ruiz and Pavon, after having escaped the observation of Humboldt and Bonpland.'

rival of the steam boat. The party now consisted of Major Long, Major O'Fallon, Mr Peale, and lieutenants Graham and Smith, and in three days arrived at Charaton, a small village of which the settlement began in 1817. The steam boat, *Western Engineer*, in which the party was embarked, was the first that had ever ascended the Missouri, above this point; and we can readily conceive the interest taken in beholding the onward progress of this herald of civilization.—We rejoice to find in the report of the gentlemen of this expedition abundant confirmation of the fact, that coal exists in extensive beds, in various tracts of this thinly wooded country.

On the first of August, the steam boat arrived at Fort Osage, and found the party of Mr Say, which had left them at Franklin, there encamped. They had arrived at the rendezvous on the twenty-fourth of July, a week before their companions in the boat. Here another division of the party was projected, which terminated unfortunately for the portion detached. For the sake of a more thorough examination of the tract between Fort Osage and the Konzas river, and also of the region between the Konzas and the Platte, a party was detached from the steam boat, with instructions to cross the river Konzas, at the Konza village, thence to traverse the country by the nearest route to the Platte, and to descend that river to the Missouri. The party consisted of Mr Say, to whom the command was given, Messrs. Jessup, Peele, Seymour, and Swift, Mr J. Dougherty, and five soldiers. Previous to the departure of the steam boat from Fort Osage, Major O'Fallon, the Indian agent, despatched a messenger across the country to the Konzas nation of Indians, residing on the Konzas river, summoning their chiefs to a council to be held at Isle au [?] Vache, on the arrival of the *Western Engineer*. The steam boat moved up the river from Fort Osage, and arrived at the island on the fourteenth of the month. The council with the Indians had been appointed for the eighteenth, but Major O'Fallon's messenger having reached the Konzas village at a time when the Indians were hunting, they were unable to attend before the twenty-fourth. We subjoin the following account of the council.

‘On the twenty-fourth, the chiefs and principal men of the Konzas, to the number of one hundred and fifty, assembled under an arbour prepared for their reception. The Indian agent addressed them in a speech adapted to the occasion, setting forth

the causes of complaint, which they had given by their repeated insults and depredations upon the whites, giving them notice of the approach of a military force, of sufficient strength to chastise their insolence, and advising them to seize the present opportunity of averting the vengeance they deserved, by proper concessions, and by their future good behaviour, to conciliate those, whose friendship they would have so much occasion to desire.

'The replies of the chiefs were simple and short, expressive of their conviction of the justice of the complaints made against them, and of their acquiescence in the terms of reconciliation proposed by the agent. There were present at this council, one hundred and sixty-one Konzas, including chiefs and warriors, and thirteen Osages. The most distinguished men were Na-he-da-ba, or *Long Neck*, one of the principal chiefs; Ka-he-ga-wa-ta-ning-ga, *Little Chief*, second in rank; Shon-ga-ne-ga, who had been one of the principal chiefs, but had resigned his authority in favor of Ka-he-ga-wa-ta-ning-ga; Wa-ha-che-ra, *Big Knife*, a partizan or leader of war parties; Wom-pa-wa-ra, *He who scares all men*, more commonly known to the whites as *Plume Blanche*, or *White Plume*, a man rising rapidly in importance, and apparently destined to become the leader of the nation. In addition to the Indians, the officers of the garrison, and a few gentlemen were present at the council. The ceremonies were commenced by a discharge of ordnance from the steam boat; the flags were hoisted in their appropriate places, a council flag being placed near the chair occupied by the agent. The Indians appeared gratified at the displays made on the occasion, but their attention was more particularly aroused by the exhibition of a few rockets and shells, fired for their entertainment. At our departure, which, on account of the Indians, was delayed until the twenty-fifth of August, many of them were present, and manifested some surprize at witnessing the operations of the steam boat.'—vol. i. pp. 111, 112.

At the isle au Vache, Major Long's party was strengthened by a detachment of a boat and fifteen men from the United States troops there, and on the twenty-fifth of August moved up the river. On the first of September, while the boat was sailing by the mouth of Wolf river, it was hailed from the shore by Dougherty, one of Mr Say's party, detached, as we have stated above, to explore the region between the Konzas and the Platte. Mr Say's party had arrived safely at the Konzas village, of which the chiefs and warriors were, as we have seen, absent at a council with Major O'Fallon; and during his visit among this people, Mr Say had opportunity of

making much curious observation on their character and peculiarities, for which we must refer to the work before us. Having finished his visit to the Konzas, he proceeded onward with his companions, and had the misfortune to fall in with a war party of the Republican Pawnees, by whom they were robbed and insulted ; and being deprived of their horses, rendered incapable of prosecuting their projected tour. They had no alternative but to return to the village of the Konzas, whence they had just departed.

‘Mr Say’s party were kindly received at the village they had left on the preceding day. In the evening they had retired to rest in the lodge set apart for their accommodation, when they were alarmed by a party of savages, rushing in armed with bows, arrows and lances, shouting and yelling in a most frightful manner. The gentlemen of the party had immediate recourse to their arms, but observing that some squaws, who were in the lodge, appeared unmoved, they began to suspect that no molestation to them was intended. The Indians collected around the fire in the centre of the lodge, yelling incessantly ; at length their howlings assumed something of a measured tone, and they began to accompany their voices with a sort of drum and rattles. After singing for some time, one who appeared to be their leader, struck the post over the fire with his lance, and they all began to dance, keeping very exact time with the music. Each warrior had, besides his arms, and rattles made of strings of deer’s hoofs, some part of the intestines of an animal inflated, and inclosing a few small stones, which produced a sound like pebbles in a gourd shell. After dancing round the fire for some time, without appearing to notice the strangers, they departed, raising the same wolfish howl, with which they had entered ; but their music and their yelling continued to be heard about the village during the night.

‘This ceremony, called the *dog dance*, was performed by the Konzas for the entertainment of their guests. Mr Seymour took an opportunity to sketch the attitudes and dresses of the principal figures.’—vol. i. p. 135.

Mr Say and his party now crossed to Isle au Vache, where the council already mentioned had been held ; but had the mortification to find that the Western Engineer had already ascended the river. Messrs Say and Jessup, unable from illness to travel further on foot, determined to remain for the present at Isle au Vache ; while the rest of the party under the direction of Mr Dougherty, who was thoroughly acquaint-

ed with the country, undertook to cross it, in the direction of Wolf river, where this latter person, in the manner we have mentioned, arrived in season to hail the *Western Engineer*, as she was passing, on the first of September. On the following day the whole party, with the exception of Messrs Say and Jessup, moved up the river; on the fifteenth of September arrived at the mouth of the Platte, and on the seventeenth encamped near the spot destined to be the winter quarters of the expedition, just above the trading establishment of the Missouri fur company, known as Fort Lisa, from Mr Manuel Lisa, one of the most active persons engaged in the Missouri fur trade.

The position selected for the establishment of winter quarters for the exploring party, was on the west bank of the Missouri, about half a mile above Fort Lisa, five miles below Council Bluff, and three miles above Boyer's river. At this place, the party came to anchor on the nineteenth of September, and in a few days had made great progress in cutting timber, quarrying stone, and in other preparations for the construction of quarters. The first object of Major O'Fallon was to obtain redress of the Pawnees for their outrage on Mr Say. Messengers were sent across the country to stop the traders, who had already departed with merchandise for that tribe, and shortly after, Mr Dougherty, with two Frenchmen acquainted with the language of the Pawnees, was sent to them to demand restitution. He had previously been despatched with a deputation of Konzas to the village of the Otoes, with whom the Konzas had been at war, with proposals of peace on the part of the latter. On the fourth of October, a council was held by Major O'Fallon with about one hundred Otoes and a deputation of the Ioways. The day before the council, a dance was performed by the Indians, which is thus described :

'The principal chiefs advanced before their people, and upon invitation seated themselves. After a short interval of silence, Shonga-tonga, the *Big-horse*, a large, portly Indian of a commanding presence, arose, and said,—“My father, your children have come to dance before your tent agreeably to our custom of honoring brave or distinguished persons.”

'After a suitable reply by Major O'Fallon, the amusement of dancing was commenced by the striking up of their rude instrumental and vocal music; the former consisting of a gong, made of a large keg, over one of the ends of which a skin was stretch-

ed, which was struck by a small stick ; and another instrument, consisting of a stick of firm wood, notched like a saw, over the teeth of which a smaller stick was rubbed forcibly backward and forward ; with these, rude as they were, very good time was preserved with the vocal performers, who sat around them, and by all the natives, as they sat, in the inflection of their bodies, or the movements of their limbs. After the lapse of a little time, three individuals leaped up and danced around for a few minutes, then, at a concerted signal from the master of ceremonies, the music ceased, and they retired to their seats, uttering a loud noise, which, by patting the mouth rapidly with the hand, was broken into a succession of similar sounds, somewhat like the hurried barking of a dog. Several sets of dancers succeeded, each terminating as the first. In the intervals of the dances, a warrior would step forward and strike a flag-staff they had erected with a stick, whip, or other weapon, and recount his martial deeds. This ceremony is called *striking the post*, and whatever is then said may be relied upon as rigid truth, being delivered in the presence of many a jealous warrior and witness, who could easily detect and would immediately disgrace the *striker* for exaggeration or falsehood. This is called the *beggars' dance*, during which some presents are always expected by the performers, as tobacco, whiskey, or trinkets. But on this occasion, as none of those articles were immediately offered, the amusement was not, at first, distinguished by much activity. The master of the ceremonies continually called aloud to them to exert themselves ; but still they were somewhat dull and backward. *Ietan* now stepped forward and lashed a post with his whip, declaring that he would thus punish those who did not dance. This threat, from one whom they had vested with authority for this occasion, had a manifest effect upon his auditors, who were presently highly wrought up by the sight of two or three little mounds of tobacco twist, which were now laid before them, and appeared to infuse new life.

‘ After lashing the post and making his threat, *Ietan* went on to narrate his martial exploits. He had stolen horses seven or eight times from the Konzas ; he had first struck the bodies of three of that nation slain in battle. He had stolen horses from the *Ietan* nation, and had struck one of their dead. He had stolen horses from the Pawnees, and struck the body of one Pawnee Loup. He had stolen horses several times from the Omawhaws, and once from the Puncas. He had struck the bodies of two Sioux. On a war party, in company with the Pawnees, he had attacked the Spaniards, and penetrated into one of their camps ; the Spaniards, excepting a man and boy, fled, himself being at a distance before his party, he was shot at and missed by the man, whom he immediately shot down and struck. “ This,

my father," said he, "is the only martial act of my life, that I am ashamed of." After several rounds of dancing, and of striking at the post by the warriors, Mi-a-ke-ta, or the *Little Soldier*, a war-worn veteran, took his turn to strike the post. He leaped actively about, and strained his voice to its utmost pitch, whilst he portrayed some of the scenes of blood, in which he had acted. He had struck dead bodies of individuals of all the red nations around, Osages, Konzas, Pawnee Loups, Pawnee Republicans, Grand Pawnees, Puncas, Omawhaws, and Sioux, Padoucas, La Plais or Bald Heads, Ietans, Sauks, Foxes, and Ioways; he had struck eight of one nation, seven of another, &c. He was proceeding with his account when Ietan ran up to him, put his hand upon his mouth, and respectfully led him to his seat. This act was no trifling compliment paid to the well-known brave. It indicated that he had still so many glorious acts to speak of, that he would occupy so much time as to prevent others from speaking, and put to shame the other warriors by the contrast of his actions with theirs.' vol. i. pp. 153—156.

On the day succeeding this friendly council, the Pawnees, who had been summoned to give account of the outrage mentioned, and of various other acts of violence, appeared at the encampment. They advanced leisurely onward in a narrow pathway, in *Indian file*, led by a grand chief. Near this pathway, the American band of music had been stationed; and when Long-hair, the chief, arrived opposite to it, the band struck up suddenly and loudly a martial air. 'We wished to observe the effect,' add our authors, 'which instruments, that he had never seen nor heard before, would produce on this distinguished man, and therefore eyed him closely, and were not disappointed to observe, that he did not deign to look upon them, or to manifest, by any emotion whatever, that he was sensible of their presence. The Indians arranged themselves on the benches prepared for them, and the cessation of the music was succeeded by stillness, which was suddenly interrupted by loud explosions of our howitzers, *that startled many of us, but did not appear to attract the notice of the Pawnees.*' We have never seen so complete an illustration of the control possessed by these savages over their curiosity, and the command they are able to exercise over their nerves. The council terminated, after much of the property taken from Mr Say's party had been restored, and promises given, that the offenders should be punished with a whipping.—Having thus established his party at the Council Bluff, Major Long, with Mr Jessup,

on the eleventh of October, took leave of their friends at the encampment, and descended the Missouri in a canoe, on their way back to Washington and Philadelphia.

The following chapter contains an interesting journal of occurrences during the winter, succeeded by a series of chapters, compiled from the journal of Mr Say, in which an account is given of the Omawhaws or Mahas, as they are otherwise called. These chapters form a valuable addition to our stock of knowledge with regard to the character and manners of the native tribes of our continent, and cannot be perused without interest. Our limits enable us to make but a few detached extracts from this portion of the volume. The following contains the receipt for a dish, which we think would have filled Mrs Glass or Dr Kitchener with dismay.

‘A singular description of food is made use of by some tribes of the Snake Indians, consisting chiefly and sometimes wholly of a species of ant, (*Formica*, Lin.) which is very abundant in the region in which they roam. The squaws go in the cool of the morning to the hillocks of these active insects, knowing that then they are assembled together in the greatest numbers. Uncovering the little mounds to a certain depth, the squaws scoop them up in their hands, and put them into a bag prepared for the purpose. When a sufficient number are obtained, they repair to the water, and cleanse the mass from all the dirt and small pieces of wood collected with them. The ants are then placed upon a flat stone, and, by the pressure of a rolling-pin, are crushed together into a dense mass, and rolled out like pastry. Of this substance a soup is prepared, which is relished by the Indians, but is not at all to the taste of white men. Whether or not this species of ant is analogous to the *Vachacos*, which Humboldt speaks of, as furnishing food to the Indians of the Rio Negro and the Guiana, we have no opportunity of ascertaining.’ vol. i. p. 214.

The following passage will afford some idea of the means made use of, by some of the savage chiefs, to acquire or maintain an ascendancy over their miserable subjects.

‘The power of some of the former rulers of the Omawhaws is said to have been almost absolute. That of the celebrated Black-bird *Wash-ing-guh-sah-ba*, seems to have been actually so, and was retained undiminished until his death, which occurred in the year 1800, of the small-pox, which then almost desolated his nation. Agreeably to his orders, he was interred in a sitting posture, on his favorite horse, upon the summit of a high bluff of the bank of the Missouri, “that he might continue to see the

white people ascending the river to trade with his nation." A mound was raised over his remains, on which food was regularly placed for many years afterwards ; but this rite has been discontinued, and the staff, that, on its summit, supported a white flag, has no longer existence.

'This chief appears to have possessed extraordinary mental abilities, but he resorted to the most nefarious means to establish firmly the supremacy of his power. He gained the reputation of the greatest of medicine men, and his medicine, which was no other than arsenic itself, that had been furnished him for the purpose, by the villany of the traders, was secretly administered to his enemies or rivals. Those persons who offended him, or counteracted his views, were thus removed agreeably to his predictions, and all opposition silenced, apparently by the operation of his potent spells.

'He delighted in the display of his power, and on one occasion, during a national hunt, accompanied by a white man, they arrived on the bank of a fine flowing stream, and although all were parched with thirst, no one but the white man was permitted to taste of the water. As the chief thought proper to give no reason for this severe punishment, it seemed to be the result of caprice.

'One inferior but distinguished chief, called *Little-Bow*, at length opposed his power. This man was a warrior of high renown, and so popular in the nation, that it was remarked of him, that he enjoyed the confidence and best wishes of the people, whilst his rival reigned in terror. Such an opponent could not be brooked, and the Black-bird endeavored to destroy him.

'On one occasion, the Little Bow returned to his lodge, after the absence of a few days on an excursion. His wife placed before him his accustomed food ; but the wariness of the Indian character, led him to observe some peculiarity in her behavior, which assured him that all was not right. He questioned her concerning the food she had set before him, and the appearance of her countenance, and her replies, so much increased his suspicions, that he compelled her to eat the contents of the bowl. She then confessed, that the Black-bird had induced her to mingle with the food a portion of his terrible medicine, in order to destroy him. She fell a victim to the machination of the Black-bird, who was thus disappointed of his object.

'With a band of nearly two hundred followers, the Little-Bow finally seceded from the nation, and established a separate village on the Missouri, where they remained until the death of the tyrant.

'On one occasion, the Black-bird seems to have been touched by remorse, or perhaps by penitence, in his career of enormity.

One of his squaws having been guilty of some trifling offence, he drew his knife in a paroxysm of rage, and stabbed her to the heart. After viewing her dead body a few moments, he seated himself near it, and covering his face with his robe, he remained immovable for three days, without taking any nourishment. His people vainly petitioned that he would "have pity on them," and unveil his face; he was deaf to all their remonstrances, and the opinion prevailed, that he intended to die through starvation. A little child was at length brought in by its parent, who gently raised the leg of the chief, and placed the neck of the child beneath his foot. The murderer then arose, harangued his people, and betook himself to his ordinary occupations.

'Towards the latter part of his life, he became very corpulent, the consequence of indolence and repletion. He was transported by carriers, on a bison robe, to the various feasts to which he was daily invited, and should the messenger find him asleep, they dared not to awaken him by a noise or by shaking, but by respectfully tickling his nose with a straw.' vol. i. pp. 223—228.

A very affecting story of a young squaw, married to an American trader, and afterwards deserted by him, is told in the following chapter. Major Long, in his judicious report to the Secretary at War, at the close of the second volume, has made the remark, that most of the sentiment and reflection ascribed to the savages in the speeches and sayings reported of them, must be set down to the interpreters and reporters. If there is no exaggeration of the same kind in the narration, to which we have just alluded, it proves an unexpected refinement of feeling on the part of the savage female in question; a refinement which contrasts strongly with the general tenor of the descriptions of their life, manners, and character, contained in other portions of the work.

Additional proof of the stoicism, with which the savages support bodily pains, is found in the account of the expiatory tortures of the Minnetarees.

'Annually, in the month of July, the Minnetarees celebrate their great medicine dance, or dance of penitence, which may well be compared with the Currack-pooja or the expiatory tortures of the Hindoos, so often celebrated at Calcutta. On this occasion a considerable quantity of food is prepared, which is well cooked, and served up in their best manner. The devotees then dance and sing to their music at intervals, for three or four days together in full view of the victuals, without attempting to taste of them. But they do not, even at this time, forego their

accustomed hospitality. And if a stranger enters, he is invited to eat, though no one partakes with him. On the third or fourth day, the severer expiatory tortures commence, to which the preceding ceremonies were but preludes. An individual presents himself before one of the officiating magi, crying and lamenting, and requests him to cut a fillet of skin from his arm, which he extends for that purpose. The devout operator thrusts a sharp instrument through the skin near the wrist, then introduces the knife, and cuts out a piece of the required length, sometimes extending the excision entirely to the shoulder. Another will request bands of skin to be cut from his arm. A third will have his breast flayed, so as to represent a full moon or crescent. A fourth submits to the removal of concentric arcs of skin, from his breast. A fifth prays the operator to remove small pieces of skin from various indicated parts of his body; for this purpose an iron bodkin is thrust through the skin, and the piece is cut off, by passing the knife under the instrument.

‘Various are the forms of suffering which they inflict upon themselves. An individual requests the operator, to pierce a hole through the skin of each of his shoulders, and after passing a long cord through each of these holes, he repairs to a golgotha at some distance from the village, and selects one of the bison skulls collected there. To the chosen cranium he affixes the ends of his cords, and drags it in this painful manner to the lodge, around which he must go with his burden, before he can be released from it. No one is permitted to assist him, neither dares he to put his own hands to the cords, to alleviate his sufferings. If it should so happen that the horns of the cranium get hooked under a root or other obstacle, he must extricate it in the best manner he can, by pulling different ways, but he must not touch the rope or the head, with his hands, or in any respect attempt to relieve the painful strain upon his wounds, until his complete task is performed.

‘Some of the penitents have arrows thrust through various muscular parts of their bodies, as through the skin and superficial muscles of the arm, leg, breast, and back.

‘A devotee caused two stout arrows to be passed through the muscles of his breast, one on each side near the mammæ. To these arrows, cords were attached, the opposite ends of which were affixed to the upper part of a post, which had been firmly implanted in the earth for the purpose. He then threw himself backward, into an oblique position, his back within about two feet of the soil, so as to depend with the greater portion of his weight by the cords. In this situation of excruciating agony, he continued to chant and to keep time to the music of the gong, until from long abstinence and suffering he fainted. The by-

standers then cried out, "Courage, courage," with much shouting and noise; after a short interval of insensibility he revived, and proceeded with his self-inflicted tortures as before, until nature being completely exhausted, he again relapsed into insensibility, upon which he was loosed from the cords, and carried off amidst the acclamations of the whole assembly.

'Another Minnetaree, in compliance with a vow he had made, caused a hole to be perforated through the muscles of each shoulder; through these holes, cords were passed, which were, at the opposite ends, attached by way of a bridle to a horse, that had been penned up three or four days without food or water. In this manner, he led the horse to the margin of the river. The horse, of course, endeavored to drink, but it was the province of the Indian to prevent him, and that only by straining at the cords with the muscles of the shoulder, without resorting to the assistance of his hands. And notwithstanding all the exertions of the horse to drink, his master succeeded in preventing him, and returned with him to his lodge, having accomplished his painful task.'—vol. i. pp. 276—278.

In the sixteenth chapter an account is given of an expedition of Major O'Fallon, and other gentlemen, to the villages of the Pawnees, or Panis, as the name is sometimes written. On this tour they saw the celebrated young chief, renowned for his courage and humanity, displayed in abolishing the practice of human sacrifices, and who appears in the gallery of the House of Representatives in Mr Morse's picture; having been one of the party of Indians, who visited Washington last winter. Perceiving at the head of the chapter that it contained a notice of *human sacrifices* among the Pawnees, we had thought it possible that some analogy might be traced in this horrid feature of manners between the ancient Aztecs and these northern tribes. Some resemblance in reality appears in the following account.

'The Pawnee Loups heretofore exhibited the singular anomaly, amongst the American natives, of a people addicted to the inhuman, superstitious rite, of making propitiatory offerings of human victims to Venus, the *Great Star*. The origin of this sanguinary sacrifice is unknown; probably it existed previously to their intercourse with the white traders. This solemn ceremony was performed annually, and immediately preceded their horticultural operations, for the success of which it appears to have been instituted. A breach of this duty, the performance of which they believed to be required by the *Great Star*, it was supposed would

be succeeded by the total failure of their crops of maize, beans, and pumpkins, and the consequent total privation of their vegetable food.

‘To obviate a national calamity so formidable, any person was at liberty to offer up a prisoner of either sex, that by his prowess in war he had become possessed of.

‘The devoted individual was clothed in the gayest and most costly attire; profusely supplied with the choicest food, and constantly attended by the magi, who anticipated all his wants, cautiously concealed from him the real object of their sedulous attentions, and endeavored to preserve his mind in a state of cheerfulness, with the view of promoting obesity, and thereby rendering the sacrifice more acceptable to their Ceres.

‘When the victim was thus sufficiently fattened for their purpose, a suitable day was appointed for the performance of the rite, that the whole nation might attend.

‘The victim was bound to a cross, in presence of the assembled multitude, when a solemn dance was performed, and after some other ceremonies, the warrior, whose prisoner he had been, cleaved his head with the tomahawk, and his speedy death was insured by numerous archers, who penetrated his body with their arrows.

‘The present mild and humane chief of the nation, Latelesha, or Knife-chief, had long regarded this sacrifice as an unnecessary and cruel exhibition of power, exercised upon unfortunate and defenceless individuals, whom they were bound to protect, and he vainly endeavored to abolish it by philanthropic admonitions.

‘An Ietan woman who was brought captive into the village, was doomed to the Great Star by the warrior, whose property she had become by the fate of war. She underwent the usual preparations, and, on the appointed day, was led to the cross, amidst a great concourse of people, as eager, perhaps, as their civilized fellow men, to witness the horrors of an execution. The victim was bound to the cross with thongs of skin, and the usual ceremonies being performed, her dread of a more terrible death was about to be terminated by the tomahawk and the arrow. At this critical juncture, Petalesharoo, son of the Knife-chief, stepped forward into the area, and in a hurried but firm manner declared that it was his father’s wish to abolish this sacrifice; that for himself, he had presented himself before them, for the purpose of laying down his life upon the spot, or of releasing the victim. He then cut the cords which bound her to the cross, carried her swiftly through the crowd to a horse, which he presented to her, and having mounted another himself, he conveyed her beyond the reach of immediate pursuit; when,

after having supplied her with food, and admonishing her to make the best of her way to her own nation, which was at the distance of at least four hundred miles, he was constrained to return to his village. The emancipated Ietan had, however, the good fortune, on her journey of the subsequent day, to meet with a war party of her own people, by whom she was conveyed to her family in safety.

‘This daring deed would, almost to a certainty, have terminated in an unsuccessful attempt, under the arm of any other warrior, and Petalesharoo was, no doubt, indebted for this successful and noble achievement to the distinguished renown, which his feats of chivalry had already gained for him, and which commanded the high respect of all his rival warriors.’—vol. i. pp. 357—359.

The appendix to this chapter contains a catalogue of birds, which must prove highly interesting to the naturalist; and an extremely curious account of the language of signs, in extensive use among the different tribes of savages. The number and diversity of their dialects and the imperfection probably of all of them as mediums of communication, have led to a surprising skill, in the use of this language of signs. The extremely arbitrary character of many of these signs makes us, however, somewhat sceptical, as to the extent to which they are used. Thus the third sign in the list is ‘*Darkness*, which is represented by the hands extended horizontally forward and back upward, passing one over the other, two or three times, touching.’ If this be any thing different from the pantomimic representation of *groping*, it is evidently a complicated, arbitrary sign, indicative of more concert than we can readily attribute to the different savage nations with each other. The justice of these scruples is confirmed by the fact, stated by our authors, that the language of signs given by them differs in many symbols from the reports of other travellers. We mean not, however, to question a considerable use of these signs: but if, as our authors state, the members of different tribes, who by various chances have been incorporated with each other, remain for a long time unable to communicate by language,—the vehicle of thought which is acquired with greatest facility,—it cannot be presumed that any very detailed communication could take place between disconnected savage nations by means of signs highly arbitrary and conventional.

While the events related in the ninth chapter were trans-

piring at the encampment, Major Long had accomplished his return to Washington, and on the twenty-eighth of May 1820, had again ascended to the encampment, having performed the journey from St Louis to the Council Bluff by land. Preparations were now made for pursuing the ulterior objects of the expedition. For a reason, which we shall presently mention, the farther progress of the party up the Missouri was countermanded by the Secretary at War, and an excursion by land to the source of the river Platte, and thence by the way of the Arkansa and Red rivers, to the Mississippi was ordered. The party organized for this route consisted of the following persons.

‘S. H. Long, Major U. S. Topographical Engineers, commanding the expedition; J. R. Bell, Captain Light Artillery, to act as Journalist; W. H. Swift, assistant Topographer, commanding guard; Thomas Say, Zoologist, &c.; E. James, Botanist, Geologist, and Surgeon; T. R. Peale, assistant Naturalist; Samuel Seymour, Landscape Painter; Stephen Julien, Interpreter, French and Indian; H. Dougherty, Hunter; D. Adams, Spanish Interpreter; Z. Wilson, Baggage Master; Oakley and Duncan, *Engagees*; Corporal Parish, and six privates of the U. S. Army.

‘To these we expected an addition, on our arrival at the Pawnee villages, of two Frenchmen, to serve as guides and interpreters, one of them having already been engaged.

‘Twenty-eight horses and mules had been provided, one for each individual of the party, and eight for carrying packs. Of these, six were the property of the United States, being furnished by the commanding officer at Camp Missouri; the remaining sixteen were supplied by Major Long, and others of the party. Our saddles, and other articles of equipage, were of the rudest kind, being, with a few exceptions, such as we had purchased from the Indians, or constructed ourselves.’—vol. i. p. 425.

The circumstances of the case obliged the party to start with an inadequate outfit, for the difficult and dangerous excursion proposed, and it was not without expressions of derision on the part of the Indians who witnessed their small numbers, that on the sixth of June they took up their march. An attempt was made during the halt of the party among the Pawnees, to make them acquainted with the vaccine inoculation, but doubts are expressed by our authors, whether its nature and efficacy were comprehended by the Indians. The formidable ravages of the small pox, among a people so ill

provided with medical aid, would make this antidote a peculiar blessing. It is well known that the natives in South America had anticipated the observation of Dr Jenner, and were acquainted with the fact, that those who milked the cows were affected with a mild disease, by which they were protected from small pox.

In traversing the region between the Missouri and the Rocky Mountains, our travellers were in a great degree dependent on the bison, or buffalo, as he is usually called, for their support. The immense herds of this powerful animal, which throng the western plains, to which the progress of civilization has banished them from their former range over the greater part of the continent, form one of the most remarkable peculiarities of the region. The following animated account of an imposing scene will be acceptable to our readers.

‘We rode on through the same uninteresting and dreary country as before, but were constantly amused at observing the motions of the countless thousands of bisons, by which we were all the time surrounded. The wind happening to blow fresh from the south, the scent of our party was borne directly across the Platte, and we could distinctly note every step of its progress through a distance of eight or ten miles, by the consternation and terror it excited among the buffalo. The moment the tainted gale infected their atmosphere, they ran with as much violence as if pursued by a party of mounted hunters, and instead of running from the danger, turned their heads towards the wind. Eager to escape from the terrifying scent, they pushed forward in an oblique direction towards our party, and plunging into the river they swam and waded, and ran with the utmost violence, in several instances breaking through our line of march, which was immediately along the left bank of the Platte. One of the party perceiving from the direction taken by the bull, that preceded the extended column of his companions, that he intended to emerge from the low river bottom, at a particular point, where the precipitous bank was worn by much travelling into a deep notch, urged his horse rapidly forward to gain this station, that he might have a near view of these interesting animals; he had no sooner arrived at this point, than the formidable leader, bounding up the steep, gained the summit of the bank, with his fore feet, and in this position abruptly halted from his full career, and glared fiercely at the horse, which now occupied his path. The horse, trembling violently from fear of this sudden apparition, would have wheeled and exerted his utmost speed, had he not been restrained by the greatest strength of his rider; he re-

coiled however a few feet, and sunk down upon his hams. The bull halted but a moment, then being urged forward by the irresistible impulse of the moving column behind, rushed onward by the half sitting horse. The multitude came swiftly on, crowding up the narrow defile. The party had now arrived, and extending along a considerable distance, the bisons ran in a confused manner in various directions to gain the distant bluffs; numbers were compelled to pass through our line of march, between the horses. This scene added to the plunging and roaring in the river of those that were yet crossing, produced a grand effect, which was still heightened, by the fire opened upon them by our hunters. As they ascended the bank, innumerable opportunities offered of selecting and killing the fattest, and it was with difficulty we restrained our hunters from slaughtering many more than we needed.'—vol. i. pp. 480, 481.

On the thirtieth of June, the party obtained a distant view of the Rocky Mountains. The plains about them exhibited the phenomenon of the *Mirage*, in an uncommonly vivid manner. 'A herd of bisons, at the distance of a mile, seemed to be standing in a pool of water; and what appeared to us the reflected image was as distinctly seen as the animal itself.' On the sixth of July, the party encamped at the base of the Rocky Mountains, having reached the barrier, which bounds the plain of almost a thousand miles, over which they had travelled.

On the morning of the thirteenth, Dr James, by whom the work before us was drawn up for the press, took command of a small detachment destined to explore and ascend the 'Highest Peak,' as it is called in our maps; an elevation, which, though not the highest, in the opinion of our authors, lies, nevertheless, within the region of perpetual snow. It is very suitably named by Major Long, 'James' Peak.' The visit to it was accomplished with considerable difficulty; the thermometer sinking to 42° on the summit, while, in the encampment, it had stood at 96° the same day at noon, and did not fall to 80° till late in the evening. Having achieved this object, the party moved onward over the desert, to the banks of the Arkansas. Having encamped on this river, Captain Bell, with Dr James and two men, made an excursion up the river to the mountains, to explore its sources. Having effected their purpose, and returned to the encampment, the whole party, on the morning of the nineteenth, turned their backs on

the mountains, and began to descend the Arkansa. 'It was not without a feeling of regret,' say our authors, 'that we found our long contemplated visit to these grand and interesting objects to be now at an end. More than a thousand miles of dreary and monotonous plain lay between us and the enjoyments and comforts of civilized countries. This we were to traverse in the heat of summer, but the scarcity of game about the mountains rendered an immediate departure necessary.'

On the twenty-first of July, a division of the party into two sections was ordered, of which the one under Major Long was destined to cross the Arkansa, and travel southward in search of the sources of the Red river; the other, under Captain Bell, to proceed down the Arkansa, by the most direct route, to Fort Smith. On the twenty-fourth, the two divisions started on their respective destinations. The length, to which our article has already extended, prevents our following the motions of either. Misled by the information of the Kaskaia Indians, and in some degree by the incorrectness of the maps, the party of Major Long mistook the Canadian river for the Red river, of which they were in search, nor did they discover their error, till their arrival at the confluence of the former and the Arkansa, when it was too late to retrace their steps. On the thirteenth of September, they arrived at Fort Smith, the place of rendezvous, which Captain Bell's party—by the direct route of the Arkansa—had reached before them. A different misfortune had befallen the latter party. In the course of their route, three of the soldiers of the party had deserted in the night, after plundering the company of whatever they could carry off, and taking with them, among articles more easily replaced, some whose loss was irreparable.

'Our entire wardrobe, with the sole exception of the rude clothing on our persons, and our entire private stock of Indian presents, were included in the saddle-bags. But their most important contents were all the manuscripts of Mr Say and Lieutenant Swift, completed during the extensive journey from Engineer cantonment to this place. Those of the former consisted of five books, viz. one book of observations on the manners and habits of the mountain Indians, and their history, so far as it could be obtained from the interpreters; one book of notes on the manners and habits of animals, and descriptions of species; one book containing a journal; two books containing vocabularies of the

languages of the mountain Indians ; and those of the latter consisted of a topographical journal of the same portion of our expedition. All these being utterly useless to the wretches who now possessed them, were probably thrown away upon the ocean of prairie, and consequently the labor of months was consigned to oblivion by these uneducated vandals.'

Shortly after this untoward accident, the party arrived at the place of rendezvous ; where, being again within the pale of civilization, our imperfect analysis of their interesting narrative may close. To the detailed relation of the expedition of which we have attempted the foregoing abstract, succeeds a 'general description of the country traversed,' extracted from Major Long's report to the Secretary at War. This is a very judicious document, and will materially aid the reader in generalizing the information derived from the main work. The volume is closed by an appendix, consisting of astronomical and meteorological records, and vocabularies of various Indian languages. A considerable accession is made by the latter the stock of materials, in a study daily rising in interest. The Atlas contains two maps, comprising the country drained by the Mississippi, and some well executed engravings of scenes from Indian life and manners, and sketches from nature.—We do not think it necessary to enter into a minute criticism of the style, though it is occasionally less simple than we could wish. There is sometimes an affectation of scientific language, and it is not often that our authors are willing to make use of a less formidable word than *infract*, for *breaking* or *violating* a treaty. With this exception, the literary execution is highly respectable. We have already expressed a desire, on some other occasion, to enter into an examination of the scientific portion of the volumes. No expedition, which our government has sent into the West, appears to have been so well appointed, in respect to the investigation of nature.

There is but one sentence in the volumes, which we have read with shame and sorrow. It is that which gives an account of the causes for stinting the objects and abridging the extent of the expedition. 'It will be perceived,' say our authors, 'that the travels and researches of the expedition have been far less extensive, than those contemplated in the orders of the Secretary of War. The state of the national finances, during the year 1821, having called for retrenchments in all expend-

itures of a public nature, the means for the farther prosecution of the objects of the expedition were accordingly withheld.' The state of our national finances ! Some great calamity, perhaps, has befallen us. We have had the armies of all Europe quartered upon us, like France ; we have had an overwhelming taxation, like England ; we have been swept with the besom of civil and foreign war, like Spain ; we have been incorporated into foreign empires, like Holland ; cut up into confederations, like Germany ; our substantial population has been sacrificed, perhaps, as in all the old countries, to the great abuses of government or the perilous convulsions of the times. Is it this, which has brought on the 'state of our finances ?' Detestable parsimony ! The only country but one in the world, that has not been reduced to an avowed or virtual bankruptcy ; the country, which has grown and is growing in wealth and prosperity beyond any other and beyond all other nations, too poor to pay a few gentlemen and soldiers for exploring its mighty rivers, and taking possession of the empires, which Providence has called it to govern ! One half of the wages of the members of Congress for the hours they have sagely devoted, from time to time, to the nauseous projects and petitions of Colonel Symmes and his moon-stricken disciples, would have enabled this party of gallant officers intelligent and scientific travellers, to enlarge the known boundaries of all the kingdoms of nature. Poor, indeed, we are in spirit, if not in finance, if we will not afford to pay the expense of making an inventory of the glorious inheritance we are called to possess. England, staggering and sinking under her burdens, can fit out her noble expeditions to the Niger and to the Pole. France has her intrepid naturalists in the farthest regions of Ethiopia. Botanists and mineralogists take their departure from Vienna, to go and traverse Brazil. Prussia sends her men of learning to copy manuscripts and study antiquities at Verona and at Rome. Russia, with her Krusensterns, and Kotzebues, and Lisianskis, is actually elbowing us out of the mouths of the Columbia. And even Mohammed Ali Pasha, the Turkish viceroy, the bey of Egypt, has his envoys at Marseilles, at Leghorn, and at Frankfort, to send him home the latest improvements. While these very prosperous, very flourishing countries, of whose aggregate national debt, the principal of ours would not pay six months' interest,

can do all this, we cannot find a small party of discovery in powder and ball enough to hunt withal, or blankets and strouding enough to trade with the Indians. If, indeed, this is the sense of the people, and of their representatives, let them be honest and *act* the poverty they allege and feel. Honest poverty is no shame in the single man or the state. If we are poor, let us put off these proud airs; truckle to the British, court the Russians, beg pardon of the Spaniards, and shake hands with the pirates. Let the president at Washington move into comfortable lodgings in the seven buildings, and his white palace be leased out as a hotel. Put Congress back into the brick tenement, from which it lately escaped, and convert the capitol into a cotton factory, that its halls may at length resound with no unprofitable hum. Get the British East India company to charter our extravagant frigates and seventy-fours; and see, in the last resort, if the emperor of Russia cannot be prevailed on to farm the valley of the Missouri at the halves. This would be manly, consistent, radical work; and when we had come down to this, we might have the face to talk of the low state of our national finances. But do not let us teach the people unnecessarily to grovel. Do not let us take the country at contract, to be administered by those, who will stoop to administer it most meanly. It is not grateful to Providence to be so covetous. Whoever believes that the sins of nations may sometimes be visited upon them, may well fear that this miserly policy, on the part of a people so highly favored, may draw down upon us a touch of real national poverty; an overwhelming national debt, an all devouring taxation, a dispensation of *assignats*, and a public bankruptcy. Who knows that a just retribution may not conjure up to plague us some Mississippi company; some South Sea scheme; some judicial *old tenor* at an unheard of discount; some *new emission*, a thousand for one; may not let loose a base coin upon our community, shake public credit, poison faith between man and man, turn certificates of stock into rags, and render it good husbandry—as it was twelve years ago in the Dutch cities—to pull down brick houses, for the sake of saving the tax? When any or all of these events have taken place, we may talk of our national poverty. Till then, it would be more reasonable, and quite as decent, to return thanks for the public prosperity.